

Members

Sen. Thomas Wyss, Chairperson
Sen. Brandt Hershman
Sen. Ron Alting
Sen. Timothy Lanane
Sen. Sam Smith
Sen. Timothy Skinner
Rep. William Ruppel, Vice-Chairperson
Rep. Cindy Noe
Rep. Jackie Walorski
Rep. John Aguilera
Rep. Scott Reske
Rep. Vern Tinchler



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SECURITY AND REGULATORY MATTERS

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 23, 2005
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 431
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Sen. Thomas Wyss, Chairperson; Sen. Brandt Hershman; Sen. Timothy Lanane; Rep. William Ruppel, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Cindy Noe; Rep. Jackie Walorski; Rep. John Aguilera; Rep. Vern Tinchler.

Members Absent: Sen. Ron Alting; Sen. Sam Smith; Sen. Timothy Skinner; Rep. Scott Reske.

I. Call to order and introduction of members.

Senator Thomas Wyss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:10 A.M. Sen. Wyss then proceeded to introduce the members of the Committee and introduce the charges given to the Committee by the Legislative Council.

II. Discussion of organization and agenda for future meetings.

The topics assigned by the Council to this Committee are as follows:

- 1) Boxing Commission regulations (SR 21);
- 2) Public safety, homeland security, and identification issues (SB 201; HB 1597);
- 3) Identity theft (HCR 74).

Sen. Wyss gave a brief explanation of what information should be provided in presentations to

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the Committee by the Boxing Commission.

Sen. Wyss then recognized Representative William Ruppel to discuss what information should be provided regarding the topics of homeland security and public safety. Rep. Ruppel asked that a background and comparison of the pay scale for fire inspectors versus other public safety officials be provided to the Committee.

Sen. Wyss then asked Rep. Jackie Walorski to begin the discussion of identity theft issues. Rep. Walorski asked that a recommendation be made to the Committee, by the relevant parties, to address the lack of victim notification in identity theft situations.

The Chairman then asked each member if they had any additional issues that they felt should be addressed by the presenters in these future meetings.

Sen. Wyss and Representative John Aguilera both requested an update from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) regarding implementation of the federal "Real ID" Act. Rep. Aguilera specifically asked for information on the Act's impact on minority constituents.

Senator Timothy Lanane then expressed concerns over the lack of regulation of "tough man" contests. He also said he feared for the safety of the spectators as well as the participants.

Representative Vern Tinchler added his concern for equity in the pay matrix for public safety officials, and also reiterated the concerns already stated for identity theft issues.

Representative Cindy Noe also agreed that identity theft was a critical issue, and asked that information be provided regarding the effect of identity theft protection on minority citizens.

Representative Brandt Hershman added that he would like information regarding data mining and the risks of citizen information published on the internet.

Sen. Wyss then recognized Jake Hall, State Boxing Commissioner, to speak to the "tough man" competition issue. Commissioner Hall recommended that the Committee either study regulating or prohibiting these "tough man" type contests. Commissioner Hall also said that these contests are already a problem in Indiana, and in some cases are being held at public facilities.

The Committee then asked Commissioner Hall to be prepared present information on the following items at a future meeting:

- organization and structure of the State Boxing Commission
- options for legislation regulating "tough man" competitions and "ultimate fighting"
- what other states are doing to regulate the contests listed above
- a video sample of these contests
- other boxing safety issues

The Committee then asked the BMV to be prepared to address the following topics at a future meeting:

- the "Real ID" Act implementation and cost savings
- weapon permit endorsement on driver's license

Sen. Wyss then recognized Agent Roger Good of the United State Secret Service to give direction to the Committee on the topic of identity theft.

Agent Good offered to present background information on the full scope of identity theft crimes.

Also, the Committee requested that Agent Good provide the federal definition of identity theft. The Committee also expressed concerns about the cooperation between federal and local authorities on identity theft issues.

The Committee then requested that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) be prepared to give an update of their progress in establishing the new Department. The Committee also requested an update from the DHS on the organization of the Fire Academy and the Public Safety Academy.

III. Selection of meeting dates and Adjournment.

Sen. Wyss, after Committee discussion, set the dates and tentative agendas for the Committee's next three meetings as follows:

Meeting 2 – September 21, 2005 at 10 A.M.

- Boxing Commission regulation of "tough man" competitions
- Identity theft

Meeting 3 – October 6, 2005 at 10 A.M.

- DHS issues

Meeting 4 – October 25, 2005 at 10 A.M.

- Pay matrix for public safety officials
- Committee final report

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.